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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT

Farms & Land in Farms
2008 U. S. Organic Sales

Louisiana and U. S. Farms and Land in Farms

The number of farms in **Louisiana** in 2009 was estimated at 30,000 acres, unchanged from the previous year. Land in farms totaled 8.1 million acres, unchanged from 2008.

The number of farms in the **United States** in 2009 was estimated at 2.2 million, virtually unchanged from 2008. Total land in farms, at 919.8 million acres, decreased 110 thousand acres from 2008. The average farm size is 418 acres, unchanged from the previous year.

Farm numbers and land in farms are broken down into five economic sales classes. Farms and ranches are classified into these sales classes by summing their sales of agricultural products and government program payments. Sales class breaks occur at \$10,000, \$100,000, \$250,000, and \$500,000.

Farm numbers declined slightly in the \$10,000-\$99,999 and \$500,000 and over sales classes. Lower commodity prices and smaller values of sales contributed to changes in the number of farms within these sales classes. Farm numbers increased 0.5 percent, to 1.2 million farms, in the \$1,000 - \$9,999 sales class. Meanwhile, the number of farms in the \$500,000 and over sales class decreased by one percent, to 124,720 farms.

Land in farms decreased in the smallest and largest sales classes. In the \$1,000-\$9,999 sales class, land in farms dropped one percent, to 105.5 million acres. Land operated by farms in the \$500,000 and over in sales class decreased one percent, to 290.0 million acres. Land operated by farms with \$250,000-\$499,999 in sales increased by four percent.

The **average farm size** was unchanged in 2009. However, average farm sizes declined in some of the sales classes partially due to smaller farms moving up to higher sales classes.

Number of Farms, Land in Farms and Average Farm Size by State and United States, 2008-2009¹

Selected States	Number of Farms		Land in Farms		Average Farm Size	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	----- Number -----		----- 1,000 Acres -----		----- Acres -----	
Alabama	48,500	48,500	8,950	9,000	185	186
Arkansas	49,300	49,100	13,700	13,600	278	277
Florida	47,500	47,500	9,250	9,250	195	195
Georgia	47,800	47,600	10,400	10,300	218	216
Louisiana	30,000	30,000	8,050	8,050	268	268
Mississippi	42,000	42,300	11,000	11,050	262	261
Oklahoma	86,600	86,500	35,100	35,100	405	406
Tennessee	79,000	78,700	10,900	10,900	138	139
Texas	247,500	247,500	130,400	130,400	527	527
United States	2,200,100	2,200,010	919,910	919,800	418	418

¹A farm is any establishment from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold, or would normally be sold, during the year.

2008 United States Organic Sales

Last month the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service released data on the first-ever nationwide survey of organic production. Certified USDA organic farms and exempt organic farms (annual organic sales <\$5,000) sold commodities totaling \$3.2 billion in value during 2008. A total of 14,540 farms had organic production using a total of 4.1 million acres. **Louisiana** accounted for 23 of the organic farms with 2,151 acres. Sales of organic products in **Louisiana** totaled \$2.4 million. California led all states with 2,714 farms producing organic products on 470,903 acres. California's organic sales totaled \$1.2 billion.

U.S. harvested organic cropland totaled 1.6 million acres while organic pasture/rangeland totaled 1.8 million acres. Transitional acreage (acres being converted to organic) exceeded 194,000 acres. **Louisiana's** harvested organic cropland totaled 811 acres while the state's pasture/rangeland acreage totaled 919 acres. Transitional acres in the state totaled 941.

Organic crop sales at the U.S. level totaled \$1.94 billion while sales of organic livestock, poultry and their products came in at \$1.2 billion. **Louisiana's** organic crop sales totaled \$142,000. The state's organic livestock, poultry and their products were unpublished to protect the confidentiality of individual operation's data.

U.S. certified and exempt organic farms incurred production expenses totaling \$2.5 billion in 2008. **Louisiana's** expenses summed to \$1.6 million. The largest expenses on organic farms at the U.S. level were labor, at \$569 million, and feed purchases, at \$480 million. These two categories topped **Louisiana's** organic expenses as well.

The large majority of organic producers in the country and in **Louisiana** sold their products locally (within 100 miles of the farm). Organic production is poised to grow over the next five years, with more than 78 percent of certified and exempt producers indicating that they plan to maintain or increase organic production levels. This holds true for **Louisiana** as well, with over 66 percent indicating that they plan to maintain or increase levels.

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